

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR,UNWFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) THIRD SESSION
ROME FODAG

1. DURING HIS VISIT LAST WEEK, DR. HANNAH GAVE US A
DOCUMENT PREPARED BY THE WFC SECRETARIAT THAT ATTEMPTS TO
RECONCILE THE VARIOUS DIFFERENCES THAT REMAIN IN THE
RECOMMENDATIONS PREPARED BY THE PREPARATORY MEETING. WHILE
NOTHING MAY EVER BE DONE WITH THIS SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT,
THERE IS ALWAYS THE CHANCE THAT IT MAY BE INTRODUCED AT
SOME POINT IN MANILA AS AN EFFORT TO BRIDGE DIFFERENCES THAT
MIGHT ARISE. AS FODAG IS WELL AWARE WE HOPE TO AVOID LINE-
BY-LINE DEBATE OF FORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS. IF, HOWEVER,
THAT COURSE PROVES UNAVOIDABLE, WE NATURALLY WISH THAT THE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONSIDERED BE AS ACCEPTABLE TO US AS POSSIBLE.
FOR THIS REASON YOU SHOULD DISCUSS WITH THE SECRETARIAT AT
THE LEVEL YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE THE MATTER OF THEIR
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"RECONCILED" DRAFT PAPER. YOUR APPROACH SHOULD BE INFORMAL
AND CLEARLY WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE US POSITION. YOU
SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT YOUR PURPOSE IS SOLELY TO ASSIST THEM
IN ACHIEVING RECONCILIATION. IN THIS REGARD YOU SHOULD
POINT OUT THAT THEIR DRAFT, IN YOUR OPINION, FALLS SHORT OF
ITS GOAL IN THREE BROAD CATEGORIES. THE FIRST ARE THOSE
POINTS WHERE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED AT THE PREPARATORY
MEETING BUT WHERE THE SECRETARIAT'S REVISIONS HAVE

INTRODUCED NEW ISSUES OR REOPENED OLD ONES. IN SUCH CASES

THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD RETURN WHEREVER POSSIBLE TO THE AGREED UPON RAPPORTEUR'S VERSION. THE SECOND BROAD CATEGORY CONCERNS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION NOT INVOLVING THE US. WHILE THEORETICALLY WE CAN SIT OUT SUCH DISPUTES, THEY JEOPARDIZE THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF THE MEETING, WHICH IS OUR PRIMARY GOAL. CONSEQUENTLY WE BELIEVE THAT RECONCILIATION IS NECESSARY IN THESE AREAS ALSO. YOU SHOULD DISCUSS THIS SECOND CATEGORY WITH THE SECRETARIAT ONLY IF, AS WE NOW UNDERSTAND, THE SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO THE FULL MEMBERSHIP. ONLY IF WE ARE ITS SOLE RECIPIENT SHOULD YOU INFORMALLY VENTURE SUCH OPINIONS ABOUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OTHER PARTICIPANTS. THE THIRD CATEGORY INVOLVES THOSE REVISIONS MADE BY THE SECRETARIAT WHICH THE US COULD NOT ACCEPT. THE THREE CATEGORIES FOLLOW (RECOMMENDATION NUMBERS CONFORM TO TWO COLUMN TEXT RATHER THAN THREE COLUMN WORKING DRAFT):

CATEGORY 1

I. ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

RECOMMENDATION 10. THE PHRASE "OR OTHER PRODUCTS NECESSARY TO IMPORT FOOD" IS USED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE DISCUSSIONS IN THIS DOCUMENT.

II. INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION UNCLASSIFIED

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PREAMBLE. THE PHRASE "TO OVERCOME CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT" CORRESPONDS TO A BRACKETED PHRASE WHICH WAS DELETED BY CONSENT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING; IT SHOULD AGAIN BE DELETED OR CHANGED AS FOLLOWS: "AND REMOVAL OF CONSTRAINTS TO DEVELOPMENT." ALSO, TO RESTORE THE BALANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY AGREED TO AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING, THE PHRASE "FLOW OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES TO" SHOULD BE CHANGED TO "FLOW OF INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RESOURCES TO AGRICULTURE."

III. NUTRITION

PREAMBLE. SECOND PREAMBLE PARA. SPEAKS OF WFC ACTION "...MOBILIZE POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES..." LANGUAGE OF WFC/L 32 CAREFULLY AVOIDS SUGGESTION THAT WFC IS EMPOWERED TO TAKE SUCH ACTION.

RECOMMENDATION 3. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER LANGUAGE OF SECRETARIAT "RECONCILIATION" WHICH PRESUMABLY REPLACED RECOMMENDATIONS 3 AND 4 OF WFC/L 32, IS AGREED LANGUAGE BETWEEN WFC AND THREE OTHER UN AGENCIES. WE NOTE LANGUAGE OF SECRETARIAT "RECONCILIATION" DIFFERENT FROM LANGUAGE IN

THREE COLUMN SECRETARIAT WORKING DOCUMENTS. GENERALLY WE PREFER LANGUAGE OF THE THREE COLUMN WORKING DOCUMENT

SINCE IT AVOIDS REFERENCE TO A FIVE YEAR PLAN AND DOES NOT DISCUSS COST AND STAFFING OF NEW EFFORTS IN NUTRITION, WHICH WE BELIEVE CAN BE ACCOMMODATED BY REVISING PRIORITIES WITHIN PRESENT RESOURCES. HOWEVER, WE ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT ANY LANGUAGE AGREED TO BY WFC AND THE THREE OTHER AGENCIES CONCERNED.

V. FOOD AID

RECOMMENDATION 2. THE ADDITION OF THE PHRASE "FORESEEABLE IMPORT NEEDS" RAISES QUESTIONS NOT ADDRESSED BY THE PREPARA-
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TORY MEETING. THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE, AND WE THINK FAIR:

"...AND IN DOING SO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF, THE ADVANCEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT, RAISING OF NUTRITIONAL STANDARDS AND THE BUILDING UP AND MAINTENANCE OF RESERVE STOCKS TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY."

RECOMMENDATION 5. THE SECRETARIAT HAS ADDED THE PHRASE "IN PHYSICAL TERMS." THE US IS UNABLE TO GUARANTEE SPECIFIED QUANTITIES OF FOOD AID, AND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CHANGE THIS POSITION IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

RECOMMENDATION 7. THE UNITED STATES IS NOT IN A POSITION TO ENLARGE ITS CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM TO PROMOTE TRIANGULAR TRANSACTIONS. THE SECRETARIAT WORDING OF THIS RECOMMENDATION IS MUCH MORE CONTROVERSIAL THAN THE RAPPOORTEUR'S TEXT. NEVERTHELESS, THE US COULD ACCEPT THE STATEMENT WITH THE INCLUSION OF THE PHRASE "IN A POSITION TO DO SO" AFTER, AND DELETION OF THE WORD "DONOR" BEFORE, THE WORD "COUNTRIES", I.E. THE BRACKETED LANGUAGE.

VII. AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

PREAMBLE. THE WORDS "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" MUST BE QUALIFIED BY THE ADDITION OF THE WORD "SOME" TO MAKE THE SECOND HALF OF THE STATEMENT ACCURATE. OTHERWISE THAT PART OF THE STATEMENT SHOULD BE DELETED. THE PHRASE, "ESPECIALLY FOR FOOD PRODUCTION BY SMALL FARMERS" SHOULD BE ADDED AFTER THE WORD "CREDIT" AS A MINIMUM RECOGNITION THAT DISTRIBUTION OF INPUTS DETERMINES HOW EFFECTIVE THEY WILL BE IN ATTACKING THE PROBLEM OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

RECOMMENDATION 1. THE SECRETARIAT HAS REINTRODUCED CONTROVERSIAL ELEMENTS INTO A TEXT WHICH WAS AGREED UPON
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AMONG THE RAPPORTEUR'S GROUP; THE RAPPORTEUR'S TEXT REPRESENTS A BETTER RECONCILIATION OF DIFFERENCES AND THE US PREFERS IT.

CATEGORY 2

V. FOOD AID

RECOMMENDATION 1. THE SECRETARIAT HAS INJECTED A NEW SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY INTO AN AGREED RECOMMENDATION BY THE ADDITION OF THE PHRASE "THAT THEY ANNOUNCE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS BEFORE THE END OF 1977." WHILE THE US DOES NOT FEEL THREATENED BY THIS ADDITION SINCE THIS COUNTRY IS ALREADY DOING ITS FULL SHARE BY PROVIDING MORE THAN 60 PERCENT OF TOTAL CEREAL AID, THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE SUCH A COMMITMENT.

VI. FOOD TRADE

THE US DOES NOT BELIEVE A USEFUL PURPOSE WOULD BE SERVED BY OFFERING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION AT THIS TIME SINCE OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE TEXT ARE FAR LESS SEVERE THAN THOSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALSO HAVE AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE POLICIES WHICH WORK TO THE DETRIMENT OF INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF THEIR POPULATIONS. WHILE FULLY RECOGNIZING THE PRINCIPLE OF SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT, THE US HAS CONSISTENTLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF RECIPROCITY APPROPRIATE TO INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS POSITION IS CONSISTENT WITH OBJECTIVES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

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CATEGORY 3

I. ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

RECOMMENDATION 3. AS STATED EARLIER, US WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO OFFER AN ALTERNATIVE STATEMENT OF THIS RECOMMENDATION UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CIEC MINISTERIAL. THIS STATEMENT ALSO APPLIES TO RECOMMENDATION 2 AND 3 UNDER INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION.

IV. FOOD SECURITY

RECOMMENDATION 4. THE PHRASE "GOVERNMENTS OF THE MAJOR

GRAIN PRODUCING COUNTRIES REFRAIN FROM INTRODUCING MEASURES WHICH WOULD RESTRICT PRODUCTION, WHILE" SHOULD BE DELETED. THE DRAFTING GROUP RECOGNIZED THAT NO NATION COULD COMMIT ITSELF TO FORESWEARING PRODUCTION RESTRICTIONS IN ALL FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES; IT WOULD BE MISLEADING TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT WHICH IMPLIED SUCH A COMMITMENT.

VII. AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

RECOMMENDATION 2. THE US COULD ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING: "RECOMMENDS THAT GOVERNMENTS TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PREVENT DISRUPTIVE SPECULATION AND VIOLENT FLUCTUATIONS IN FERTILIZER TRADE IN ORDER TO STABILIZE THE INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER MARKET AND CALLS UPON FAO AND IT COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS TO KEEP UNDER CONSTANT REVIEW THE FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS FOR LDC"S AND THEIR NEEDS FOR AID." FAO HAS ALREADY CONSIDERED THE ISSUE OF BUFFER STOCKS FOR FERTILIZERS IN GENERAL AND FOUND THE APPROACH TO BE INFEASIBLE.

RECOMMENDATION 5. THE FIRST HALF OF THE STATEMENT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AS FOLLOWS: "RECOMMENDS THAT DONORS PROVIDE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES
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WHICH SUFFER FROM ACUTE SHORTAGES OF PESTICIDES AND OTHER PLANT PROTECTION MEANS." THE REFERENCES TO THE IFSS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUST FUND FOR PESTICIDES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. HABIB

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